

REMARKS

This Amendment and Reply seeks to place this application in condition for allowance. In this second Office Action, dated December 9, 2004 (the "Second Office Action"), the Examiner issued another restriction requirement. In this restriction, the Examiner identified two patentably distinct species, namely Species I, including claims 36-48 and 63-77, and Species II, including claims 49-62.

Applicants hereby elect Species I, claims 36-48 and 63-77, without traverse.

The non-elected claims (i.e., claims 49-62) have been canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, those claims have been withdrawn from consideration in this application at this time. Applicants reserve the right to present the same or similar inventive subject matter in this application, at a later date, or in a divisional application.

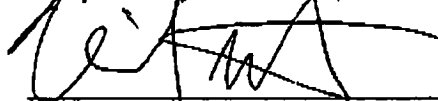
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and consideration of the claimed invention on the merits. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims present patentable subject matter. Accordingly, allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

It is noted that should a telephone interview expedite the prosecution of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Date: December 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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